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NOTES  
ON THE  
**REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA.**

Its Progress from 1871 to 1884,

UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF

GENERAL J. RUFINO BARRIOS.

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Favorable Conditions for the Immigration  
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**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**

OF

**GENERAL J. RUFINO BARRIOS,**

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**NEW ORLEANS.**  
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# Notes on the Republic of Guatemala.

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ITS PROGRESS FROM 1871 TO 1884 UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
GENERAL J. RUFINO BARRIOS.

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FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMMIGRATION OF INDUS-  
TRIOUS FOREIGNERS.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE LIFE OF GEN. J. RUFINO BARRIOS,  
Constitutional President of the Republic.

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The Republic of Guatemala is situated in the most northern part of CENTRAL AMERICA, which is the intermediate point between the two great sections of the American Continent, and forms the Isthmus which unites North and South America.

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The geographical situation of the territory of Guatemala is between  $13^{\circ} 42'$  and  $17^{\circ} 49'$  latitude North, and  $88^{\circ} 10'$  and  $92^{\circ} 30'$  longitude west of the meridian of Greenwich.

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Its superficies is 6,400 square leagues (the league of 25 to the degree contains 5000 Spanish yards), and its extent is from South to North, calculated from the Port of San José, on the Pacific, to the point whose meridian crosses parallel  $17^{\circ} 49'$ , which is the boundary line between us and Mexico, 120 leagues; and from East to West, from the Bar of the Motagua River, on the Atlantic, to the other extremity of its parallel in Guatemalian territory, which is a point at a short distance of the Volcan of Tacaná, on the same boundary line which separates us from Mexico, 130 leagues.

The boundaries are: on the North, the Republic of Mexico; on the East, the colony of British Honduras, the Atlantic Ocean, and the republics of Honduras and Salvador; on the South, the Pacific Ocean; and on the West, the Republic of Mexico.

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The Republic of Guatemala enjoys an enviable temperature, as is soon discovered by all foreigners who visit her. We have no extremes of cold or heat, and we live here in perpetual spring. The average temperature is about 72° Fahrenheit; and although it rises in the low lands on the Coast, as it decreases in the highlands, still, in both cases, it is always quite supportable. It rains from June to October, and once in a while during the other months of the year; but, even during the rainy season, there are many days clear, and of splendid beauty. In both seasons, rainy and dry, the sun rises, with a few minutes variation, at 6 A. M., and sets at 6 P. M.

The territory of Guatemala is not subject to those dreadful storms and hurricanes which desolate periodically other countries, nor to the danger of inundations. .

The phenomenons which occur here, and which sometimes have brought destruction among badly constructed houses, are earthquakes. But it has been observed, during the last ten years, that they become more and more scarce, and that there has been none felt, of any intensity, since 1874.

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With the exception of the Pacific coast, where, at the beginning and at the end of the rainy season, and caused by the stagnant waters of the sea-shore, some malignant fevers usually appear, especially among persons exposed to the intemperies of the season and careless of their health, the country, in general, is very salubrious; so much so, that even epidemics never cause that disastrous demoralization which occurs in other countries, which is due to the mildness of the climate, to the excellence of the water, and to the good elements of sustenance of life.

Cases of longevity, reaching one hundred and more years, are frequent in Guatemala. We must say that the northern coast is healthy; and that in that locality the products of the natural riches of our soil are most abundant.

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The population of the Republic of Guatemala, according to the Census of 1880, amounts to 1,278,311 inhabitants; of whom 951,824 belong to the

native race, and the 326,487 remaining, to the white and mixed race.

Comparing the population with the extension of the territory, we find 22 inhabitants per square mile.

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The Republic is divided into 23 departments, and these into 329 municipalities; it contains 11 cities, 32 towns, 286 villages and 2,509 hamlets. Table N<sup>o</sup>. 1 shows the number of departments, their respective population, their elevation above the level of the sea, their distance from the capital and the nearest sea-ports. The first group contains the departments of the section named Centre; the second those of the section East, and the third those of the section West,

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The Republic has four principal ports adapted to the wants of commerce: San José of Guatemala, Champerico and the bay of Ocós on the Pacific, and, on the Atlantic, Livingston, which is a port of entry and of deposit for a zone free from Import duties. This port of Livingston will have to transfer this privilege to "Puerto Barrios" on the Bay of Santo Tomás, as soon as the works on the Northern Railroad shall be more advanced.

Besides, the Republic possesses landings or minor ports, as "Barra de los Esclavos" "Tecojeté," and "San Luis," on the Pacific, and "Panzos" on the river Polochic (Alta Verapaz) which falls into the lake of Izabal, and Gualan, on the river Montagua which falls into the Atlantic.

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As a consequence of its various elevations above the level of the sea, the territory of Guatemala, being for the most part extremely fertile, is adapted to the cultivation of all kinds of natural products.

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On account of its favorable geographical position, and of the variety and fecundity of her soil, Guatemala is destined to develop large agricultural interests, in preference to the industrial pursuits of her merchants.

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There are immense zones of vacant lands, adapted to all kinds of culture, and honorable and industrious immigrants can obtain them free. Besides, they are exempt from the payment of taxes and duties on all kinds of machinery and tools needed for their work, and on the products of their lands for the space of ten years. Hands are furnished them (at current wages), and they are protected and treated so as to procure them all neces-

sary facilities for their establishment in the country, and for the development of the work they may undertake.

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Wages here are very low: labor is obtained by the day or by contract; one hand receives from 25 to 50 cents per day; in contracts, the compensation is conventional, and depends upon the importance of the work to be performed. A day's work is from 6 A. M. to 6 P. M., allowing the laborer one hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner (9 to 10 A. M., and 1 to 2 P. M.)

Laborers can be obtained also by the month, with a deduction of the value of food.

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The inhabitants of the Republic, even those who belong to the native race, are, in general, of an affable and officious disposition, and know how to treat foreigners with sympathy and attention.

In Guatemala, charity is an universal quality; and, as well in the government institutions of benevolence, as through the feelings of individuals, the deserving, who are in want, find abundant services and assistance.

In Guatemala, no one perishes by hunger, nor is abandoned in his misfortune. The disabled find succor in the philanthropy of the people; and those who make any effort and exercise any perseverance in work, will obtain good salaries and proportionate profits.

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Provisions are cheap, wholesome, and abundant. The principal are:

Beef, Pork, Mutton.....from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per arroba (25 lbs)

Fowls: Chickens of good size cost.....from 37 to 62 cents

and in that proportion can be obtained Ducks, Pigeons, &c;

Flour.....from \$8.00 to \$9.00 per quintal (100 lbs).

Rice.....from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per arroba.

Corn.....\$1.50 to \$3.00 per fanega [400 ears]

Beans, black or white.....from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per quintal.

Potatoes, large Beans, Yucas and other various roots, and a great variety of vegetables, at moderate prices.

Eggs, at 1½ cents; Milk, 6 cents per bottle; Cheese of different kinds, from 12 to 25 cts per  $\text{lb}$ ; Butter, at 62 cts  $\text{lb}$ .

Tortillas [pan-cake] of corn-meal, and black beans form the basis of the nourishment of the native classes.

Although fish could be obtained from the sea, from the rivers and from the lakes, and their quality and flavor are exquisite, it is not an article of food of general use in this country, because there is no regular enterprise to supply the market. And it is a singular fact that this article is imported in preserves from North America, France and Spain, and is sold at prices so high that it is out of reach of the poor.

The Guatemalan cooking has always received praises from foreigners on account of the peculiarity and the flavor of its seasoning.

Fruits are most abundant, varied, and very cheap. Among them must be named first the plantain, which is found of large and small sizes; it constitutes the principal article of food for poor classes, and is found as desert on the table of the rich. It is pleasant, salubrious and nutritious.

There are, in Guatemala, Hotels and Boarding Houses, where, for a daily expense which varies from 40 cents to \$2.00 [or more, according to the refinement or luxury of the service], a person can live comfortably. The wines are imported; and cost, according to quality, from one to four dollars per bottle. Beer made in the country is good and very cheap. Ice is artificial, and its consumption is increasing every day.

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As for the branches of Industry, we have stated already that, in Guatemala, agriculture is the most important, although the importation of foreign goods is also quite large, and considerable capital has been raised to carry it on in this city and in other cities of the departments.

The basis of National prosperity, at present, is the cultivation of coffee; there are in the Republic 60 million trees, and their product is worth over five millions dollars. Next to this is the sugar cane which supplies home consumption. Its cultivation is destined to receive a great impetus as soon circumstances will be more favorable for the exportation of sugar by the Atlantic. Indeed, with the realization of better conditions, our northern coast will soon be covered with sugar plantations, which will be able to compete with the West Indies product, when they will be able to secure reduced freights, which they cannot obtain at present by the way of the Pacific.

On the coast of the Pacific, in the departments of Amatitlan, Escuintla, Sololá, Mazatenango, Retalhuleu, Quezaltenango, and San Marcos, are many valuable and well equipped plantations of sugar and coffee. Some

of these last produce every year as much as twenty-five thousand quintals of dry and clean coffee.

The foundation of the large plantations of coffee, and of some of sugar, dates only ten years back, when General Barrios issued a decree to the effect that all lands should return to the public domain, which remained without cultivation in private hands; and to this important and well timed provision, the country owes the increase of its activity and wealth. Indeed, the best lands were in possession of the Catholic Clergy or of religious communities, and withdrawn from industry or speculation, until the advent of General Barrios to the Government of the Republic.

There are in the departments of the East, of the West and of the North excellent lands well adapted to the cultivation of wheat. The production of this cereal is now limited to the departments of the West, but it is not sufficient for the consumption of the country; and it is found necessary to import about 100,000 quintals annually from California.

Cacao is not produced in sufficient quantities for exportation. This bean is of superior quality, and has a good future. It is cultivated both on the North and South coasts.

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The cultivation of the quina tree has been initiated by the Government, at public expense; and at this date, there exist already five millions of plants, of different species.

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The indigo plant is cultivated on a very small scale, there being no enterprise in this branch. The quality is excellent.

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The same observation applies to cotton and tobacco, articles that are destined to become of great importance for the commerce of the country, which consumes it in very large quantities; almost all is imported. Both are produced here of the best quality.

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The grape vine can also be cultivated with profit, as has been proved by a few trials.

There are, in the Republic, many lands very rich and well adapted to this branch of agriculture, which is not yet developped among us, but which deserves serious attention, on account of the great quantities of wine consumed in this country.

In the very fertile zone of the North, between Alta Verapaz and Peter, has been tried the cultivation of cinnamon, pepper, nutmeg and cardamom, although on a small scale; with good results, this enterprise will be greatly stimulated.

Bee culture is not developed here, except as a pastime, in some plantations or farms. This is to be regretted, especially in a country where a great variety of richly perfumed flowers and of trees distilling aromatic gums, cover the plains and the mountains; and this industry is easy to establish and would be extremely profitable, as white wax is imported here in large quantities, and is used extensively.

The attempts made in the propagation and development of the silkworm are very satisfactory; but we have no active enterprise to give life to that rich branch, by sufficient resources and knowledge.

The Government has accorded many liberal grants of land to agricultural enterprises, especially in the northern zone; and there is an increased demand for similar concessions as the value of those lands becomes more appreciated.

Some have been granted to establish stock ranches, into which can be turned many extensive and beautiful plains. This business, undertaken with good blooded cattle, horses, sheep and goats, and carried on under a perfect and careful system, ought to give the most satisfactory results, on account of the vastness of domestic consumption as well as of exportation.

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On account of its close connection with agriculture, we will here mention an industry which would result in large profits, and which does not exist among us; it is the preparation of preserved fruit. It is certain that, as we possess a great variety, and of the most exquisite taste and flavor, the exportation of that article would be a source of considerable gain.

At present, it can be said that we export from the North only a few bunches of bananas and there is no doubt that an enterprise well organized for the planting of this and other kinds of fruit on the coasts of the Atlantic and of the Pacific could export large quantities and realize good profits.

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Another line of speculation we can point, is the distillation and rectification of our sugar-cane rum, as well for exportation as for the supply of the alcohol consumed in this country, which is imported from abroad.



The natural products are not developed on the scale in which they ought to be, by the parties engaged in their cultivation. Woods of more than 300 varieties, and many of them dye-woods, are very abundant over the whole Republic, especially on the northern and southern coasts; and only a few Mexican firms take the benefits of this wealth, and this in small spots near the frontiers, in our department of Peten.

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Sarsaparilla and other medecinal plants, India rubber, fibrous plants of all kinds, cocoa-nuts, corozo nuts (natural products extremely abundant), are hardly noticed, and on a very small scale, for want of men active, intelligent and enterprising.

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More special mention must be made of the "Ramie" plant, on account of the beauty of its fibre. It is raised in this country with ease, and in great abundance, and is destined to a grand future. These promises will be realized as soon as there shall be found a machine adapted to the extraction of that fibre; and the Government is waiting and watching for such event. It is known that the fibre of Ramie commands a high price in foreign markets, and that the demand is far greater than the supply.

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Mines of gold, silver, lead, coal, salt and of other useful materials exist in great numbers in this country, waiting only for the impulse which will be given them by intelligent, enterprising and energetic capitalists.

In the department of Alta Verapaz, at 90 miles from the city of Coban, and with great facilities for the construction of a wagon road, exists a salt spring which can produce 500 quintals daily of first quality; and of this great wealth not even ten quintals a day are extracted, for want of energy and means in the parties who usually work it. I will add that, to supply the wants of the large population of Alta Verapaz, of Yzabal, and of Peten (in the north of the Republic), salt is now imported by way of the Atlantic, and is sold at 4 to 5½ dollars per quintal.

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To resume, and as regards the agricultural industry, the Republic of Guatemala, by her splendid and salubrious climate, by her virgin soil adapted to all classes of culture, and by her position between the Atlantic and the Pacific, with only 270 miles by Rail Road from one ocean to the other, is a country which offers more comforts of life and greater

guaranties of success in any enterprise, to emigrants from North America or from Europe, who may wish to seek here a permanent home and settlement.

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As regards industry, the Republic of Guatemala also offers an ample field. With the exception of shoe-making and tailoring which are sufficient to supply the needs of the people, the other mechanical professions are in good demand.

The scarcity of carpenters, for example, renders necessary the importation of furniture. This is the result of a want of enterprise, since we possess such a variety of precious woods, and artisans of much taste and ability.

In the branch of jewelry, the buyer has to make his selections from among the stocks held by Importers. The jewelry business is tolerably heavy in Guatemala; but it would acquire much more importance, if purchasers could order the pieces needed, according to their own taste, and have them made in the country whenever they want them.

The works which we are able to accomplish in blacksmithing, and in the casting of iron and other metals, are yet very imperfect; and the shops which might be established here would undoubtedly give good profits. The country requires a good deal of machinery, and none is manufactured here, for the want of enterprise; even insignificant repairs can hardly be done here.

The consumption of glass and china ware is very large, and is supplied only by importation, although, as we possess abundantly all the elements which could give life to that industry, we could have guatemalan manufactories able to supply those articles.

The same remark applies to the great use of paper of all kinds. We have to obtain it from North America and from Europe, while the raw materials which should be employed in that industry are left to rot and perish.

We do not manufacture oils, although we possess abundantly the cocoa-nut, the corozo-nut, the manilla, the beneseed, the palma christi, etc., which ought to be used in that manufacture.

In short, there is no useful art, either liberal or industrial, which could not find in Guatemala a good source of success, since, as we have stated before, the field is large and profitable for all kinds of enterprise.

To encourage the immigration of honorable and industrious persons, I will indicate here in a few words the institutions of the country, in order that all may be convinced that in a matter of such importance, they will find all desirable conditions among us.

The Constitution, which is the law of the country, since the 1st of March, 1880, insures :

Religious freedom, and protection of worship in the churches ;

Freedom of instruction ; the education imparted in the establishments supported by the Government is purely laical. For the primary instruction, there are public schools in the remotest villages of the Republic ; they are gratuitous, and the attendance of children is obligatory ;

Freedom of industry ; and patent privileges cannot be granted, except in favor of new and useful inventions ;

Freedom of reunion and association ;

Freedom of the Press.

The Constitution recognizes all the other rights of man, which cannot be impaired, except by due process of law.

Civil marriage is the only one in Guatemala recognized and guaranteed by law.

Under those guaranties, many foreigners live in Guatemala, engaged in commerce, in agriculture and in industry. All of them, with very few exceptions, live on the best terms with the Guatemaltecos, enjoy the esteem of the Chief of Government and of its officials, as well as of all classes of society, and are treated and protected in the most pleasant and liberal manner.

It is very seldom that a foreigner who has resided for some time in Guatemala, abandons the country, which is a proof of the well-being enjoyed here.

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All the towns, as well as the centres of production, of any importance, are in communication with the capital by telegraphic lines. There are in the Republic more than seventy telegraphic offices for the transmission of messages, and the length of wires is more than 3000 English miles. We have also telegraphic communication with South America, Mexico, the United States, and the nations of Europe by submarine cables.

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The postal service is equal to the exigencies of modern times. This is acknowledged by our countrymen as well as by foreigners, and is

proved by the enormous increase of our correspondence with all nations within the last twelve years, the number of mail matter having exceeded two millions in 1883, while in 1871 it was less than fifty thousand.

The Republic figures in the Universal Postal Union, the advantages of which, for the development of international relations, are immense.

A large correspondence is carried on with the nations of America and of Europe, by means of the steamers of the Atlantic as well as of the Pacific; the service is regular and the prices moderate.

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The Republic possesses two railroad lines in operation: from the port of San José, on the Pacific, 72 miles, with stations in the towns of Pueblo Viejo, Amatitlan, Palin, Escuintla, Masagua and Naranjo. The trip consumes five or six hours, and the line carries a great traffic in the exportation of fruit, the importation of merchandise, and the movement of passengers.

The other line, between the town of Retalhuleu and the port of Champerico, also on the Pacific, is used for the exportation of the vast products of the West, and for the importation of goods for the same. The extent of this line is 28 miles, and the run is of one hour and a half or two hours, on account of the stoppages at various stations.

Those ports on the Pacific are visited by the steamers of the Pacific Company, subsidized by the Government, which run between Panamá and San Francisco in California; also by the German steamers of the company "Cosmos," which make a direct voyage from Europe through the Straits of Magellan, and by a multitude of steamers and sailing vessels of all nationalities, as the traffic is very active.

Those ports have extensive and splendid iron piers which render safe the operation of loading and unloading, as, in both, the roadstead is open and without natural protection.

Very soon will be opened on the Pacific a new port on the bay of the river Ocos, on the boundary line between us and the Republic of Mexico; and this will contribute, by its easy and safe entrance, to develop the products of all the coast of the department of San Márcos, where are found, in great quantity, lands of extreme fertility.

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On the Atlantic side, the Republic possesses the port of Livingston, which, as we have already stated, is backed by a free zone for the con-

sumption of the goods imported through it. From this port is shipped the fruit exported from the departments of the Centre which lie at the North of the Capital, and from the departments of the East. From Livingston there is an internal navigation through the lake of Izabal, as far as the port of that name, which is distant from the Capital 70 leagues, by a horseback road. This is used by the departments of the East.

The other road, used by the departments of Alta and Baja Verapaz, (departments of the North), follows the lake Izabal, reaches the river Polochic which falls in said lake, and following the upper course of that river, reaches the port of Panzós, which is distant from the city of Coban, 30 leagues, by a wagon road. The trip on the Polochic is only of a few hours duration; and to make it faster, there are a few small steamers of light draft, which perform the service with regularity.

The Republic possesses also, on the Atlantic, the beautiful and large bay of Santo Tomas perfectly sheltered and safe for all classes of vessels. On this has just been founded the city of "Puerto Barrios," which will become the key of the prosperity of Guatemala. From this point starts the railroad line which is to meet in Guatemala with the one now in operation to the port of San José; and the works are pushed with great activity and enthusiasm.



The city of Guatemala is situated in a picturesque valley. Her streets are drawn in a perfect line, and their appearance is pleasing on account of their cleanliness and general neatness. She has beautiful surroundings, which are natural places of resort.

This Capital has magnificent public establishments of education, as well as many private ones well organized.

There is a military school, well appointed; a Conservatory and Academy of Music; and a School of Arts and Mechanical Industries which is frequented by over 300 pupils.

We have good hospitals, an orphan asylum and houses of refuge, where the sick and needy are liberally provided for.

We possess Faculties organized to teach the superior branches of Medicine and Surgery, Pharmacy, Jurisprudence, Notary's duties, and Engineering; and many persons who have become eminent in the sister Republics have received their education, and graduated in Guatemala.

Almost all houses have good drinking water which is brought through aqueducts into the fountains of which they are provided; and there are

bathing establishments with excellent and salubrious waters, at very short distance from the city, and accessible to carriages.

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The police is well organized, on the North-American system, and preserves effectually public order.

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A family of four to six persons can be easily accommodated in a house, at a rental of twenty-five to thirty dollars per month.

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The lighting of the city, which has been done by naphtha, will soon be replaced by electricity.

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The Capital possesses a beautiful and commodious theatre, under subsidies by the Government, where, every year, some company either of Italian opera, of Spanish comedy, of drama or French operette, gives performances, always in combination with a good ballet.

The theatrical season lasts from the 15th of November to the 15th of May, which is the dry or spring season, as we compute it. The subventions vary from 20, 30 or 40 thousand dollars, according to the merits of the companies.

In several streets, the Capital possesses lines of cars, which facilitate transit.

She has also in her gardens, situated North of the city, a magnificent hippodrome, with two large halls erected for the comfort of the public, where, three times a year, in the beginning of May, the middle of August, and the end of November, there are interesting horse races which the Government encourages by premiums amounting to ten thousand dollars for each season, the highest of said premiums being of one thousand to three thousand dollars. To compete in those races, some horses of superior breed have been imported from North America, Spain and Chili, some of which have cost, rendered in Guatemala, as much as from one thousand to seven thousand dollars, which will give an idea of the importance of our races.

The creation of the Hippodrome was promoted by General Barrios, President of the Republic, with the purpose of improving our own breeds by the importation of excellent subjects, and in the same time, of procuring to Guatemalan society a class of sports elegant and civilized, tending to develop friendly emulation between competitors, and elevating the manners and spirits of the people.

The design of the President was seconded by a company organized with the purpose of carrying it through, at an expense of fifty thousand dollars in the construction of the Hippodrome; and, at this date the Republic possesses a large number of horses of improved breed, born from those imported; and the Capital is doted with a place which has become a favorite resort for all classes.

There are in the Republic three establishments of credit: the "Banco Internacional," the "Banco Colombiano," and the "Banco de Occidente." The two first mentioned are in the Capital; the last, in the city of Quezaltenango, in the department of the West. Their combined working capital is not less than five millions of dollars. They make advances on current accounts; they discount letters of exchange; they sell drafts upon the Interior, upon North America and Europe; and, also, they receive deposits, allowing an interest. The usual rate of interest for deposits subsequent to sight checks is three per cent. per annum; and that of discounts, or charges on current accounts is, generally, twelve per cent. per annum, said rate varying very seldom. The gains of those establishments amount annually from twelve to twenty per cent. of the capital. We will state that the gains of the "Banco Internacional" is claimed to be seventy per cent.

Those banks were founded only during the last eight years, and their bills of emission are circulated with full confidence, and are used without discount in all transactions.

The spirit of association acquires every day a greater development, and agglomerations of capital are accomplished by the emission of stock, for the organization of important commercial, agricultural and industrial companies.

To-day, we can name the three banking companies already mentioned, (\$2,800,000); the Pier Company of San José and Champerico (250,000); the Agency Co. in the same ports (\$100,000); the Tramway Co. (\$200,000); the India Rubber Cultivation Co. (\$75,000); the Hippodrome Co. (\$50,000; the Electric Light Co. (\$100,000); the Railway companies between San José and Guatemala, and between Champerico and Retalhuleu (\$5,000,000 more or less). Several other companies, many of them commercial, some agricultural and industrial, already in existence, or in the way of organization, we do not mention on account of the limits of this work. We will only state that the enterprises which could be carried on with sufficient means, are so many, so varied, and so sure of good results, that our Republic is assuredly one of the most favorable centres for the investment of capital.

With the resources of a National Association, decreed by the Government and composed of the majority of the Guatemalians, has been undertaken the great work of the Northern Rail Road, the cost of which has been estimated at ten or twelve millions of dollars.

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As a proof of the great strides made in every branch since 1871, we will point to the establishment of luxurious stores well stocked with silk, woollen and cotton goods of all classes, and with many other articles of commerce received in exchange for our fruits. There are several drug stores, built in the European style in regard to luxury and appointments. We have not yet any stores for specialties.

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The Republic of Guatemala, as well as her sisters of Central America, suffered a great deal in her credit before 1871, on account of the frequent interruptions of peace by the people who, on every favorable opportunity, attacked the Theocratic government by which they were robbed, despised and oppressed. But as soon as the Guatemalan people recovered all his liberties, reinstated by the heroic revolution of 1871, peace, order and security of the inhabitants of the Republic, and protection of their interests, have been fully guaranteed in the interior by the good faith and prestige of the Chief of the Government, and also by the energy with which he has created, sustained and enforced them; as for the exterior, Guatemala possesses the strength and all the necessary elements to repulse any attack.

The good organization of the Militia, and the condition of the war stores enable us to put in the field an army of 30,000 men; The armament is the Remington system for infantry, and Krupp for artillery.

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Another first class institution that the Capital will soon possess, is the Penitentiary, the construction of which is now much advanced. Its plan is in accordance with modern style, and provides for the security of the prisoners, as well as for their improvement in labor. This edifice, with its accessories and its appointments, will cost one million of dollars, and will accommodate safely and comfortably over one thousand prisoners.



In regard to the great promotor of civilization bequeathed to humanity by the immortal Guttemberg, we will state that before 1871 there existed in Guatemala only two official publications: "La Gaceta," and "La Semana," both edited by the same pen, and confined to the most futile subjects. There was also a publication issued by the "Economic Society," headed by its name. It treated regularly of theoretical subjects which related to agriculture, industry, commerce and art. There were only, in all the Republic, two printing presses; one used for printing official documents, the other for printing an almanach, and also some religious pamphlets.

Now we could make a very large catalogue of newspapers and works of different classes, especially works of legislation, history and instruction, which have appeared in Guatemala since 1871.

There are in the Capital four splendid printing presses, one run by steam, by which is done all the Government printing.

Four newspapers are, at present, published: "El Guatemalteco," weekly, official; "Diario de Centro América"; "La Gaceta de los Tribunales," semi-monthly; "La Gaceta de los Hospitales," monthly; "El Horizonte" and "El Ensayo," both weekly.

In the city of Quezaltenango are published: "El Bien Público," semi-weekly, very well written; in the city of Mazatenango, "El Eco de los Altos," bi-monthly; in Antigua Guatemala, "El Eco del Valle," small daily; in the city of Chiquimula, "El Oriental," weekly; in the city of Salamá, "La Voz del Norte"; and, in the city of Coban, "El Quetzal," both weekly. Besides the above, in May and April, during which takes place the meeting of the legislative body, is published the "Diario de las Sesiones," in which are printed the speeches of the members, taken by a short hand reporter.

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Following in importance the Capital of the Republic, we will mention Quezaltenango doted with substantial and elegant public buildings for the local authorities, educational edifices, penitentiary, theatre, etc., all erected during the short period elapsed since the Revolution of 1871. The commerce of merchandise of all classes and of fruit in Quezaltenango has acquired a vast importance since the opening of the port of Champerico which was intended to facilitate the commerce of the West.

After Quezaltenango, we will name Antigua Guatemala, Chiquimula, Salamá, Retalhuleu, San Marcos, Coban, Amatitlan, etc., etc., all of which

have been greatly improved in their edifices and in their commercial movement, and are moving forward towards a great future.

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The diplomatic body accredited by foreign nations for Central America, resides regularly in our Republic, from where they perform their duties concerning the other republics of the Centre. At present there are in Guatemala the following Legations accredited for Central America.

From England, North-America, France, Germany,  
Austria and Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Spain.

There are also consulates of the same nations, and of many others.

The Government of Guatemala maintains the most cordial international relations.

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We have already stated that the progress which is apparent throughout the whole Republic dates from a few years, and this leads us into a brief mention of the revolutionary movement which opened the field of our progressive activity.

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On the 30th of June, 1871, the liberal party defeated the aristocratic or servile party which had held the reins of power, with very few interruptions which occurred before 1840, since the 15th of September 1821, on which day the colonies situated in Central America separated themselves from Spain.

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From that memorable 30th day of June, commenced for the Republic of Guatemala, under a system of freedom, an active movement of reform in her administration, directed with wonderful ability, and enforced with admirable firmness by the same chief who governs her to-day, constitutionally, and who, having initiated that great revolution, commanded from the beginning and lead to victory the forces which supported it. The illustrious leader to whom we refer is General J. Rufino Barrios, who deserves, by his acts, our gratitude, and fame imperishable.

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At the time of the triumph of the Liberal revolution of 1871, the Republic was completely under the control of the Jesuits, monks, clergy and nuns, and was therefore a prey to the most despairing catholic fanati-

cism, to the lowest inertia, and to the deepest ignorance. The power of the administration, previous to that date, seemed to be employed to the destruction of intelligence, to the annihilation of all aspirations towards freedom and progress. The proof of this proposition is found in the startling fact that, of the public revenues, hardly the miserable sum of \$4000 was appropriated annually to public instruction. This was used in the teaching of the catechism of Father Ripalda, which, we may say, was the *Great Book* in which our young men had to seek the foundation of the destiny and happiness of Guatemala. Other proofs are found in the insignificance of agricultural industries, in the ruinous abandonment of immense zones of land suitable for magnificent products, in the absence of roads and of postal communications (these not reaching \$50,000 per annum, as a result of the internal and external movement, including newspapers), and in the almost total absence of communication by sea, which was reduced to one or two steamers that called at irregular intervals at the port of San José, on the Pacific. More proofs can be mentioned in the non-existence of telegraphic lines, and in the damnable abandonment of the only small one which had been constructed at the expense of a private company, which abandonment was based upon the *significant pretext* that the telegraph, for Guatemala, was a *luxury*; also in the want of ports through which might have been encouraged commerce; and in the complete absence of even the idea of railroad lines which, certainly, and with more reason, must have been considered as an excessive luxury, destructive of the wealth of the country. More proofs again were seen in the sad neglect of which the military profession suffered; it had then no organization nor emulation of any kind, was abused and feared, with reason, by the civilians; but now it has been ably reorganized and instructed in the art of war, and has been educated under the laws of honor and morality. And as a last proof that the administration had no thought for the improvement and progress of the country, we can point the general indolence, indifference and inertia which, in every direction was spread like a pall over Guatemala, previous to the year 1871.

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The object of the foregoing notes has been to show, by comparing the condition of the country at that time, with the present, the immense results accomplished in a few years; also to prove that the spirit of the new institutions is eminently progressive and liberal, and that under their protection

no obstacle will be thrown in the way of any industry which may attempt to seek profitable results.

The statistics of Table No. 2 corresponding to the quinquennial periods from 1860 to 1864, 1870 to 1874, 1879 to 1883, are eloquent proofs of the progress realized from 1871 to the last date.

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## General J. Rufino Barrios.

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Having accomplished our object in making known the actual condition of the Republic of Guatemala, resulting from the progress she has made since 1871, and also the promises of her future, in her forward march in the road traced for her by the institutions established by the Revolution, it seems to us just, natural and dutiful to close these short remarks, by a few general biographical sketches of the great personality of General JUSTO RUFINO BARRIOS. To his superior genius, to his sincere love of the people, to his hard labors Guatemala owes her surprising transformation, and also the neighboring republics whatever progress they may have made during the last few years, thanks to the condition of peace due to the powerful influence of the Guatemalan chieftain. Inspired by a true spirit of patriotism, he did not limit his desires to the happiness and prosperity of Guatemala alone, but he extended them to all Central America, which is, after all, our common country.

General JUSTO RUFINO BARRIOS was born on the 19th of July 1835, in the village of San Lorenzo, in the department of San Marcos.

His parents were José Ignacio Barrios and Maria Josefa Auyon (now deceased), both persons of unimpeached honor, of great love for work, and possessors of considerable property, accumulated by incessant labor.

From that respectable origin sprang the new bud; and being born in the middle of laborious activity, his first years were spent amidst those healthy elements. As an active assistant of his excellent parents, he very early shared with them the burdens and duties of life; he frequented school, and also promptly acquired those active habits which in aftertimes so distinguished him above all, when the occasion occurred to employ them for the service of the country. He also acquired a great practical knowledge of business, which is now noticeable whenever General Barrios is called to

arbitrate any point of commerce or agriculture; and he shows by his decisions that he ignores none of the various sides of any transaction, nor any of the means to conduct it to a good result. Then also, in the honorable career of labor, he improved his moral and physical strength, already acquired from his infancy, and his constitution became robust and vigorous.

After the first bloom of youth, and entering the period of his studies, young Barrios was sent to the Capital, to acquire a scientific education in conformity with his tastes. His parents came to this decision not only in obedience to their natural desire of improving their son, but also on account of the bright intelligence and of the facility of perception which the youth had exhibited from infancy.

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Being possessed of great natural talent and of a reflective mind, young Barrios could not fail to study deeply the political structure of the country, at the time he came to the Capital. Neither could his mind, burning with the most elevated aspirations, fail to be deeply impressed by the contemplation of the mephitic atmosphere in which languished, well nigh unto death, an enslaved people.

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He came to the Capital to acquire knowledge, and he found Instruction obstructed and locked under the key of the catholic dogma. It was not permitted to look into any books but those which had the sanction of the church who declares that she alone possesses truth, when she ought to be called only by the name of Congregation or church of corruption and absurdity. The study of History, and the reading of the enlightened works of the philosophers and free thinkers being proscribed, Education was reduced to its least expression; and it was not given, therefore, to the student to acquire any knowledge but the worn out notions imparted at that time in the academy of San Carlos.

Young BARRIOS wished to respond to the wishes of his parents, and decided to follow the carrier of Jurisprudence.

While he pursued his studies of Latin, of the Philosophy of Balmes and of other branches, Barrios treasured up a series of observations, which undoubtedly enabled him to form a correct opinion upon the sad condition of the country under the ultramontane rule supported by the sword of Carrera; under which the clergy and the nobility, monopolies

and intaigue, based upon the ignorance of the people which was systematically maintained, prepared for the Republic the gloomiest and darkest future.

He came to the sure conclusion that, under the auspices of that destructive policy, the sons of the people were destined to live a miserable life under the oppressive power of the pretended aristocrats; that no one, without high protection, could aspire to any influence in public affairs; that, for the poor were closed and rendered inactive by the power of those aristocrats and of the clergy, the principal elements which, put in activity, ought to result in the advancement and the equality of the disinherited classes. Young Barrios, son of the people and of labor, with a great soul capable of any sacrifice, no doubt thought deeply about the grievances of his fellow citizens; he felt with great bitterness the injustice which was so evident; and he guessed at last that this people, apparently submissive and sleeping over its chains, could raise up, recover its lost spirit, and annihilate his enemies with one blow, if a friendly voice should sound the cry of freedom, if a strong arm would appear brandishing arms, exciting its enthusiasm, and showing the road to victory.

The so-called nobles accumulating, in collusion with the church, the property derived from masses, from pious donations, from wills, etc., etc. the instruction in the hands of the Jesuits, and the power of that depraved order dominating all consciences; the secular clergy covering under the mantle of Jubilees and of processions the misery of the people; Retrocession accepted as a principle by the high dignitaries of the Government; eternal injustice and eternal orgy adopted as a divertisement by the Chief of the Republic; agriculture, commerce and art conspicuous by their absence; Chaos, in short, having full sway in Guatemala, with its indispensable cortege of shadows and curses;

Such was the picture that young Barrios contemplated, when he left the Capital to return to the paternal roof, in the beginning of 1862, after having obtained the title of Notary public.

We cannot say whether, from that time, he foresaw his great destiny, in the accomplishment of his heroic mission to secure the freedom of a whole people; whether he thought that he was the man with a strong and invincible arm, whose friendly voice the people expected to hear, to raise up, and to follow it to victory; whether, from that moment, he consecrated to his country all his efforts and even his life, if it was necessary to sacrifice it to save her; but, if we do not know what were his thoughts at that time,

we are compelled to believe that, already, he meditated seriously upon the fate of his fellow-citizens, and upon the necessity of attempting the glorious task of redeeming them.

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Busy with the cares and attention required by his and his family's business, he spent a period of astonishing activity, traveling from one plantation to another, visiting the towns of the frontier and of the interior of Mexico, and acquiring in various places many relations and friendships through his urbanity and his eloquence. Thus passed the years until 1867, when, after he had matured the plan of a movement, and had secured the co-operation of a few brave and devoted friends, he appeared in the political arena on the third of August, leading with extreme intrepidity the assault upon the Barracks of San Marcos, the garrison of which was compelled to surrender her arms to the handful of brave men who had surprised and assaulted them without any means but a few guns, but with great energy and decision.

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The news of the assault of San Marcos was immediately spread in all directions, and although the Government of General Cerna, which continued that of Carrera, pretended not to give any value or importance to the event, it is certain that it gave great uneasiness to the Government, and that the name of JUSTO RUFINO BARRIOS, signaled in the front line as the initiator and leader of the assault, shone from that moment as a ray of hope in the breast of all those who desired a future of freedom for their country.

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The Government applied the coarsest and most infamous epithets to BARRIOS and his followers, with the purpose of counteracting the feelings of sympathy which his valiant acts might create among Guatemalians. But neither the most insulting expressions, nor the most barefaced slanders could divert the public mind, which already followed with the deepest interest the strides of the revolutionists.

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We cannot follow the Leader of the Revolution in all his movements; we do not know them all. Although we are able to investigate them in

detail, we would have to write a book on this subject alone; but this idea, which we will put into execution later, does not enter into the plan which is the basis of these short notes.

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A series of attacks and surprises, perfectly planned, against places and garrisons in the departments of the high lands, followed from time to time the assault of San Marcos; and, in consequence, the prestige of the Leader who executed them attained such proportions, that when some of those legendary actions were reported, no chief of department, or mayor of any city of the West felt safe in his place, although it might have been provided with a strong force to defend it, as it was thought already that the movement lead by the Chief who had raised the standard of revolution with the cry of freedom, was irresistible.

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Under the necessity of constant and energetic activity, surrounded by innumerable dangers, always threatened by superior forces, making forced marches at night, in all kinds of weather, through passes and paths never before trod by the foot of man, those few brave men, under the guidance and leadership of the great patriot J. RUFINO BARRIOS, succeeded in keeping in check the thirty years Government, which, although still powerful and possessing large elements of resistance, felt that it was receiving fatal blows, and that public opinion was becoming openly hostile, in the same proportion as the name of the valiant BARRIOS commanded admiration, respect and sympathy.

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The Government in the mean time was making new efforts, and issuing its most strict orders, in order to pursue and capture BARRIOS and his adherents; and perceiving that efforts, orders and plots were all without effect, on account of the foresight and energy of the intended victims, it had recourse to the infamous and damnable measure of seizing, incarcerating and loading with chains in a cell José Ignacio Barrios and Mariano Barrios, for the crime of being, the first, father of the leader of the revolution, the second, his brother; and they informed them that they could not recover their freedom until their son and brother should lay down his arms. They had no consideration whatever for the innocence of the two gentlemen, nor for the advanced age of the first, nor for the ruin that such



an arbitrary and savage imprisonment was to bring upon the heads and material interests of the victims. This action alone shows what sort of morality possessed the Government which was wiped off in 1871, and is more striking when it is compared with the acts of General BARRIOS in the hour of his triumph, when he protected the life and interests of the same men who so infamously had oppressed and outraged his father and his brother.

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During those years appeared in arms for the second time against the Government of General Cerna, General Serapio Cruz, with whose forces the hero of San Marcos united his own, and in combination with whom he performed various military operations, the last of which was the attack upon the city of Huehuetenango, in December 1869.

Almost at the beginning of that action, Barrios was severely wounded, and was compelled to take refuge in the mountains, to cure his wounds; and he succeeded in this, thanks to his excellent constitution, to his great will power, and to the good care and vigilance of the native Nicolás N. towards whom Barrios has always shown great esteem and gratitude, rewarding, besides, with substantial advantages, the disinterested and devoted services which he had received at his hands at those times.

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During that period, and towards the middle of January 1870, General Cruz lost his life in Palencia, with a large number of his followers, who, having been surprised and taken prisoners, were immediately shot; the balance of his troops, who had escaped, were dispersed.

As a consequence of this unexpected success, the Government seemed to enjoy a temporary calm; it became more hopeful; it tried to terrorize the citizens by carrying through the streets of the city the bloody head of the unfortunate General Cruz; and, in a short time, it exiled from the country several persons, among them Mr. Miguel Garcia Granados, who went to Mexico with the purpose of organising a force on the frontier, and returning to Guatemala to make war.

The Government circulated false news that Barrios had died of the wounds received at Huehuetenango; and it is probable that it imagined that by the death of its great opponents, it would be allowed to continue its oppression of the unfortunate people of Guatemala.

But Barrios was improving; and, as soon as he recovered from his wounds, he began to gather his friends, and to resume his military operations. The Government of General Cerna saw its fears renewed, and became more evidently impotent to prevent the terrible extremities with which the revolution threatened it. The commanders of departments did not dissimulate their fears of sudden attacks such as the active Leader knew how to plan and to execute for the purpose of seizing arms, or of destroying the odious monopoly of the manufacture of alcoholic liquors which demoralized and degraded the people.

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While the Government was a prey to the greatest anxiety, Garcia Granados took position in Comitán with a few followers. Barrios opened communications with him; and with the same frankness and liberality which he had shown in his relations with General Cruz, he agreed to unite with him, and to recognize him as the chief of the operations which they would, after their junction, conduct against the city of Guatemala. On the 8th of May 1871 was issued the memorable proclamation which contains the just reasons for which they had taken arms against the 30 years despotism, and in which they offered to re-establish the liberties of Guatemala, and promised to pursue their enterprise to victory or death.

That proclamation, signed by General J. Rufino Barrios, as Major General of the forces in the field, was, for the Government of Gen'l Cerna, like a train that started the fires of revolution against it, and caused such panic and confusion among its agents, that they lost all prudence and presence of mind.

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There is no record of such a triumphal march as that of this small band of brave men.

On the eighth of May, four days after the defeat and complete dispersion of the garrison at Tacaná, they marched into the Territory, and issued the mentioned proclamation. The whole force was composed of thirty-eight men; and this was the army which was going to confront a Government of thirty years standing with its resources and its disciplined troops.

The simple annotation of the dates of such triumphs is the best encomium which can be given to the military talents, to the activity and intrepidity of Major General J. Rufino Barrios, to whom the direction of

the campaign devolved, as well as to his special qualities to obtain the affection and devotion of his subordinates to whom he imparted so much confidence and bravery, that they were able to fight continuously and always successfully, although with forces whose strength was almost in all cases one to ten.

Here is, in a few lines, the glorious history of this legendary campaign, which ended in a final triumph at the battle of San Lucas.

On the 4th of May, defeat of the garrison of Tacaná ;

On the 10th of same month, occupation of San Mácos, abandoned by its garrison upon the advance of the small revolutionary force, although it greatly outnumbered it ;

On the 15th of May, bloody battle of Retalhuleu, and complete victory of the revolutionary army, although it had been almost surprised and surrounded by a large and veteran force ;

On the 29th, fight at Chiché; shameful defeat and stampede of the Government troops, who, seized with a terrible panic, as well as the officers who commanded them, never stopped till they reached the Capital, and thereby intensified the fears of the Government. This published by the voice of the press an explanation of the flight of its troops, stating in palliation that they had been seized by an inexplicable panic. To attempt to animate the spirit of its soldiers, it explained that the rebels were not better men than themselves, and that the only difference they could show was that they had arms which were loaded by the breach ; but that this was no advantage over the rifles of the old system ;

On June 1st, Garcia Granados and Barrios occupy the city of Antigua Guatemala, without resistance, the garrison having deserted it ;

On the 3d, in the town of Patzicia, was published the declaration of that name, in which were defined the principles which should form the basis of the Revolution, and General Miguel Garcia Granados was acclaimed provisional President of the Republic, with ample powers to reform the administration of the country.

On the 23d, a large force of infantry and artillery under the command of General Cerna himself, attacked the small revolutionary army which was encamped on the heights of Cochon, situated between the cities of Quezaltenango and Totonicapam.

The battle was entirely unequal and very hot ; there was a moment when the day was almost lost for the army of deliverance, when the inde-

fatigable General Barrios, who had fought at all points of the line to encourage his soldiers, rushed like lightning, followed only by twenty-five or thirty men, to the place where the battle raged with most fury, at the critical moment. By his audacity, and incomparable valor, he saved the day, and put to flight General Cerna and his army.

The small numbers of the victorious force, reduced still more by the losses of that fight, did not permit to pursue with due energy the flying hosts; this allowed General Cerna to rally the greatest portion in the city of Antigua, at about 25 leagues of the battle field.

A column of the liberating army marched close upon the rearguard of the defeated forces, and was itself followed by the balance which was already increasing by the accession of volunteers who joined it since the splendid victory of Cochon.

On the 28th, the army halted for the night in the town of Santiago Sacatepequez; on the 29th, at the break of day, information was received that the army of Cerna was marching towards the Capital. Barrios moved to cut it off from its objective point, and to intercept it at the cross road of San Lucas.

He succeeded in this, and fought a hard battle, in which the liberating forces defeated their opponents, thereby crowning the happy revolution with the laurels of a complete and glorious triumph.

Accompanied by three or four of his officers, Cerna took his flight for safety towards the neighboring Republic of Salvador, which he reached under the influence of an abject panic.

The defeated army fraternized with the victors, and joined their ranks, to enter together, as a united body, the walls of the Capital of the Republic, on the following day, the memorable **30th of June 1871**.

In the biographical notices of General J. Rufino Barrios, must shine always as one of its brightest pages, the recital of the entrance of the liberating army in the capital, on the 30th of June 1871. That army counted then not less than three thousand men; and among them were a great many, who, having been subjected to personal injuries and persecutions on the part of the fallen Government, or who, having personal animosities or bad instincts, which could not fail to exist among so many, especially as they were just emerging from a laborious and exhaustive campaign; there were a good many, we repeat, who thirsted to take their revenge on the persons or the property of their enemies or persecutors. But any wish or attempt which might have been contrary to the pure objects of the Revo-

lution, found an invincible obstacle in the firmness of the brave General, and in the loyalty of his principles; and the residents of the Capital saw with admiration that order was perfectly preserved, and that complete protection was given to all, during a state of transition so serious, and, for that reason, so full of danger. This is perhaps the only example found in history, of a place occupied by a victorious army under conditions, so generous, and without any of those occurrences, more or less dplorable, which are the consequence of excited passions, and which follow the triumph of the oppressed over the oppressors.

A few days afterwards, General Barrios took his leave of his friends in the Capital, informing them that, although, after having fulfilled his mission, he would have liked to retire to private life, he had accepted the command of the Western departments, in deference to the wishes of the Provisional President, as his services were thought to be necessary there, to complete the Revolution.

This leave of General Barrios produced in the army and among the large circle of his friends and followers a feeling akin to discouragement.

It was apparent to all that, to preserve the new order of things, which had been secured at the cost of so many sacrifices, it was indispensable that a man young, of well known liberal ideas, of great prestige, intelligent and brave, like General Barrios, should confront the shock of the passions that were going to be excited by the aristocratic party, which, no doubt, did not intend to accept, without a supreme effort, its disappearance from political life, after having enjoyed a century of power. This could hardly be expected, especially under the administration of a man like General Garcia Granados, who, even if he was eminent in the parliamentary opposition, was closely related to the nobility, and therefore, had not that freedom of action necessary to adopt the large measures which ought to have followed the new ideas proclaimed by the Liberators.

It was also known that a man of the age of General Garcia Granados, who had almost completed his 70th year, and who for the last several years had been leading a sedentary and inactive life, could not be the man active and vigorous, able to bear the labor and fatigues imposed by the new situation, which required movement and activity, study and sacrifices.

It was believed, therefore, and with sufficient reason, that the departure of General Barrios placed in imminent peril the cause of Liberty, and if public opinion had not been deterred by the certainty that General Barrios would have rejected any idea which might have been suspected as disloyal,

it is certain that the army and the people would have insisted that their beloved chieftain should remain at the head of Government in conjunction with General Garcia Granados.

General Barrios left the Capital in the middle of July 1871. He assumed command of the department of the West, with his residence at Quezaltenango; and he commenced the great task of reform in the territory of his command, with full powers and authority.

The abolition of the odious monopoly of alcoholic liquors had been actually effected by the destruction of the manufactories.

The Provisional Government, shortly after its inauguration at Patzicia, decreed the opening of the port of Champerico for imports and exports and permitted the free cultivation of tobacco, which it found almost extinct.

All the great and important measures which followed those already mentioned, and which were adopted in view of a radical change in the political system, based upon liberal principles, were due to the initiative of General Barrios alone, and were decreed by him when he was the supreme magistrate of the Republic.

What all the Liberals feared as the consequence of the absence of General Barrios from the centre of power, threatened to become a reality, two months after his departure for the West.

General Barrios having expelled from Quezaltenango the Jesuits who were established there in a succursal of their main House in the Capital, General Garcia Granados was compelled to follow up that measure and ordered them to leave the soil of the Republic. In this decree the fanatical Reaction found a good opportunity to excite the ignorant masses, and to move them against the new order of things. Large bands were organized in the East, in the beginning of September, following the departure of the Jesuits through the port of San José, and placed the Government in great danger.

Garcia Granados called hurriedly General Barrios, representing to him that his presence was indispensable to do what circumstances required; and General Barrios, who knew what was going on, assembled promptly a few companies of his troops, and arrived without delay in the Capital.

In the mean time, the rebels were almost at the doors of the city, and the Provisional Government had been unable to do anything to check their advance.

General Barrios received orders to offer battle to the enemy; and having accepted the command, which was to place him again in the midst

of dangers, he marched to the encounter, and in two successive bloody conflicts, one at Frayanes on the 16th, the other at Santa-Rosa, on the 24th of September, he completely defeated the rebels who, 1500 strong, had offered him battle. He reestablished order and tranquillity, and then returned to his residence in the West to continue his labors of reform, which had been suspended during this short, and glorious campaign.

The same vacillation, inaction and apathy so contrary to the necessities of revolutionary times, again marked the conduct of the Provisional Government, and caused the return of the same troubles and difficulties.

General Garcia Granados found it necessary to call again General Barrios, and to confide to him the supreme command, persuaded that this eminent citizen was alone able to direct safely the destinies of the Republic.

Therefore, General Barrios returned in May 1872, and took charge of the Government. During this short period of power, he succeeded in maintaining good order; he secured for his authority the highest prestige and respect, and decreed, among many measures of reform :

The Expulsion of the Company of Jesus, and the nationalization of the property which she had secured in Guatemala;

The abolition of tolls which were an unjust exaction against the needy classes;

The abolition of the religious society named "School of Christ," and confiscation of her property;

The freedom of the Press;

The opening of the doors of cloistered religious communities.

As could be supposed, those measures of radical reform, adopted in a country where catholic fanaticism was, for so many years, the supreme law, exasperated the reactionists, alarmed the clergy, and brought against the fearless Dictator all the shafts of hate and calumny; consequences which few men in power can face serenely. Therefore, the decision and firmness of General Barrios honors and exalts him, as well as his resolve to face all for the good of his fellow-citizens, thus proving that all his efforts had been directed towards the preservation of a principle, and giving guarantees that his future steps would be in the road to Liberty for the people, which was his ideal object.

The defects of the Provisional Government being well understood, it is not strange that General Barrios was called again to assume the supreme power in the beginning of 1873. Treason and defection rampant;

the faction of the mountains, in possession of the greatest portion of the East under the influence and with the help of the clergy and nobility; and all the political structure threatened with destruction; such was the picture presented by the country at the beginning of said year 1873.

The friends of the good cause were under terrible apprehensions, and knew that all was lost, unless General Barrios came immediately to the rescue. The Provisional Government had the same understanding, and called again the General commanding in the West, in order that once more he would enchain the reactionary hydra, and repair the previous disasters. Fortunately, on this occasion, the party expressed in no dubious terms its desire that General Garcia Granados should leave the Government, and he found himself under the necessity of ordering an election for President of the Republic. A step had been made towards the salvation of the country, as no one doubted that General Barrios would receive the unanimous vote of the people.

Without neglecting the measures necessary to secure peace, General Barrios in this occasion, as in the previous one, decreed with untiring activity a great many measures, either civil or military, all calculated to give a great impulse to the progress of the country in every respect. The most important were the first contract for the construction of a railroad between San José and Escuintla, and the decree by which were confiscated and nationalized all the property of the clergy, and all idle lands.

When he left again the supreme power, the Provisional Government entrusted the pacification of the East to General Barrios, who, in order to better accomplish his delicate mission, undertook the campaign in person, occupying, with some forces, the principal points which appeared to be the centres of action of the rebels.

General Barrios was busy with this difficult task, when, at the end of May of the same year 1873, he was informed by the General Assembly that he had been elected almost unanimously, by the vote of the people, President of the Republic. This event, already expected by public opinion, was received with great demonstrations of joy, and was, for the liberals, the harbinger of great hopes.

As, at this time, the reestablishment of order in the East could be considered as accomplished, General Barrios returned to the Capital, and, on the 4th of June, received from the Provisional Government the supreme authority with the same ample powers granted by the act of Patzicia.

This is the time to mention a circumstance which may give an idea of



the genius which animates General Barrios in the solution of the most arduous problems, and of his natural ascendancy over the men with whom he has to deal.

Having left the Capital with troops originary from the department of Guatemala, he succeeded by his tact in securing an interview with some of the rebels, obtained from them that they should have an understanding with their backers and by that means gained them all to his cause; after this he placed into their hands the arming of the force which he took along, and returned to the Capital with a small army composed of the same rebels who, disabused by him, returned to order and submission, full of devotion and enthusiasm for the chief who, so considerably, and by such gentle means, had detached them from the service of the fanatics.

Possessed definitively of the supreme authority, and understanding perfectly the weight of the duties that his high position imposed on him, General Barrios consecrated himself entirely to the development of the Liberal and progressive programme, which, according to his convictions, the correctness of which was soon demonstrated by the results, was to lead to the complete regeneration, freedom and greatness of this people.

The great work of reform which General Barrios had commenced during the periods in which the supreme command had been entrusted to him, was undertaken again with energy and without interruption. The labors of the chief of Government were constant, from morning till night; he looked into everything, be it important or not, every matter was considered in detail as well as in its entirety. As a man who has a thousand times walked through a certain road and knows perfectly its curves and its crossings, so General Barrios, as an experienced adviser, could indicate promptly the most convenient means, and dictated himself frequently the words of his decisions and of his decrees.

The results of his energy and application soon showed themselves in the great monuments of progress and civilization which to-day are the pride of this country, and which fill with surprise and admiration all men who having left Guatemala in the beginning of 1871 in darkness and misery to-day see everywhere progress, wealth, and enlightenment.

We can only point out a few of the great measures initiated, on account of the narrow limits of this work.

Foundation of primary schools in every city, town and hamlet of the Republic, and in the Barracks;

Establishment of intermediary and superior schools;

Enactment of laws for instruction in its three degrees, giving it a form and tendency consistent with the spirit of freedom ;

Creation of a Military School ;

Also of a Normal School ;

Establishment of a School of Arts and Mechanics ;

Organization of military service on a footing of equality, instead of the odious servile system which imposed a blood contribution on the poor classes alone.

Laws were also enacted to protect agriculture, and the plantation and cultivation of valuable farms was stimulated ;

Wagon and horse roads were opened in every direction to give activity to communications and to the traffic of the interior, and many bridges, some of them very expensive, were built ;

A decree made free to entry the lands which were idle in the hands of their owners ; and from this measure which has never been well understood, sprung up, as by enchantment, the wealth of the country, represented by many valuable plantations of coffee and sugar, founded where otherwise the spade and the plow would never have been known ;

The large edifices which were the refuge of idle monks and nuns were applied to the use of the schools and other useful institutions ;

The pretensions of the catholic clergy were energetically repressed, and all means were used to destroy religious preoccupations which are so dangerous and degrading ;

A postal service was created, worthy of the most civilized nations. Large steamers, in numbers adequate to commercial wants, were encouraged to call at our shores ;

The telegraphic system was established throughout the Republic, and communications opened with our neighbors ;

The service of the public Treasury was organized and laws were established for its management ;

The cut money was recalled and coined again in a circular form ; and so disappeared that legacy of colonial times and of the 30 years period, whose circulation was so embarrassing for commercial transactions ;

The administration of hospitals and houses of charity was improved, and new ones were created in the Departments ;

The department of justice received a new and more extensive organization, and new halls were instituted to facilitate the rapid despatch of business ;

The extension of the Press was stimulated, and help and protection were given to journalists and authors ;

A new graveyard was opened, in view of the better hygiene of the Capital ;

New popular codes were promulgated, to take the place of the old Spanish laws which were yet in force 60 years after our independence had been secured ;

The History of Guatemala was written under the auspices of the Government ;

By its direction, the Republic was represented honorably in several foreign Expositions ; the knowledge of her resources was spread by all possible means, and the development of our industry and arts was promoted by domestic Expositions ;

Text books of education, Instructions upon agricultural subjects, and lectures of various kinds, all printed in this country, were distributed with profusion ;

The army was reorganized on a splendid footing.

On the 19th of June 1880, after a series of peripatiae and of hopes, was heard in the town of Escuintla, and for the first time within the territory of the Republic, the whistle of the locomotive coming from the Port of San José. General Barrios saw the accomplishment of one of his greatest wishes ; the country received an improvement of the greatest value, and the blessings of the people were directed justly to the author of that great accomplishment.

This was followed, on the 4th of July 1883, by the construction of the line between Champerico and Retalhuleu, and, on the 19th of July 1884, by the extension of the railroad from Escuintla to the Capital. The result of those vast undertakings was the greatest and most spontaneous advancement which had been noticed in Guatemala since the date of her independence.

The construction of the Great Northern Railroad was decreed on the 4th of August 1883, the survey of the whole line was immediately executed, and, at the time of this writing, six miles are already completed from the shores of the Atlantic, and on them is running in help of the work the locomotive "Democracia."

General Barrios doted the country with a Constitution which is in perfect conformity with the most advanced liberal principles, and with the

spirit of Brotherhood of Central America; and this Constitution is the fundamental law of the country since the 1st of March 1880.

He has granted a liberal protection to the honorable and industrious aliens, and has taken care that nothing in our laws should be an obstacle to the exercise of their just efforts.

The Republic owes to General Barrios the honorable settlement of the old Boundary question with Mexico, which was a permanent cause of conflict; it was happily and definitely settled on the 13th of August 1882.

General Barrios has given life in Guatemala to the spirit of Association; and to his initiative, his participation and influence are due most of the companies of credit, agricultural or industrial, which exist in the country.

One of the great and principal aims of the Revolution of 1871 having been to elevate the people from its servile condition, to stimulate and promote its advancement and improvement, he undertook the accomplishment of that high mission with the greatest enthusiasm; and to his efforts is due the complete transformation in the condition of the laboring classes. Already, in the short period of twelve years, elapsed since that enlightened policy was adopted, can be noticed a well-being and comfort among them, and many of them have become owners of land from which they derive their subsistence, and which were conceded to them by General Barrios in the name of the nation.

A great many young men, issued from the people, have, under the same policy, been able to develop their natural talents, and occupy now important positions. The change which, in that respect, is now observable in Guatemala, where the people lived so long under the oppressive rule of the aristocracy, is almost incredible, and stands as the greatest testimony in favor of the labors of the Liberal Leader who initiated it, and carried it to the present result.

The principal cities have been embellished; beautiful edifices, national buildings have been constructed; institutions of education, penitentiaries, etc., etc., have been established.

The preservation of forests, and the creation of alleys and promenades have been attended to;

A new impulse has been given to arts;

And, to resume, there is not a single branch susceptible of improvement which has been neglected by the indefatigable care and attention of General Barrios.

In regard to the sister Republics, the Guatemalian General could do no better than follow his own patriotic inspirations ; he has kept frank and fraternal intercourse with them ; he has been generous to a fault, by his renunciation, when he was victorious on the battle field, of all compensation which he could have justly claimed ; and he has worked frankly and generously for the union of the sections into which had been divided Central America by an egotist and servile rule.

Always just and generous ; stern whenever the safety of the institutions so required ; impatient of contradiction and firm in the issuance of his orders, because he never decides anything without mature reflection ; accessible to all, and always ready to listen patiently to the complaints which have constantly been brought to his notice during all his public life ; such is the man who occupied the supreme power, with the most difficult mission of destroying the supremacy of the privileged classes as well as of the catholic clergy ; of waking up and raising from its condition of indifference a whole people used to servility ; of establishing justice and equality where their opposites alone prevailed ; of creating new elements of life in order that this renovated people might exchange its old rags for the decent garb of equality and civilization ; of opening the sources of instruction for all ; of collecting a sufficient revenue to uphold the greatness of the country represented by its institutions, by its army, by its great agricultural, industrial and commercial movement, by its great elements of communication, etc., etc. And General Barrios has accomplished it all. In the short period of twelve years, he has made way with all the decrepit and corrupt institutions ; he has raised a new edifice based on a solid foundation ; and to-day he presents to the world the result of his efforts, in the picture of a country entirely regenerated, and prepared for the greatest progress.

Having explained the mission of General Barrios, we must add that, in its accomplishment, he encountered the hate of the reactionists ; this hate made him the target of the grossest calumnies, of the lowest insults which they could invent ; and they went as far as to attempt the life of the man who had always fought them in good faith, face to face, and had loyally defeated them.

The 1st of November 1877, and the 3d of April 1883 are infamous dates, and the shame falls upon the heads of the traitors who then had made horrible conspiracies to destroy the life of General Barrios, in the hope that they might again plunge the country into the rule of chaos.

Some enemies of the great principles advocated by General Barrios,

advocates of Ignorance, who had left Guatemala before the splendors of the Revolution, attempt yet to insult and slander the Chief of this Republic. Fortunately General Barrios does not need to say a word to refute the stupid attacks of calumny: the happy condition of the Republic is his best defense, and is sufficient to shame his detractors. A tyrant never succeeded in enthusing and aggrandizing a people; a tyrant never could captivate and deserve the sympathy of freemen, nor make friends of his opponents, as General Barrios has done. Those same detractors have never published that, in the shade of Liberty, and protected by a tyrant, the ex-president, the ministers, and other high functionaries of the Government thrown down by the revolution of 1871, live quietly in Guatemala. Could there be found a more eloquent proof of the magnanimous feelings which fill the great breast of General Barrios?

The dictatorship of which he had been invested when he came into power did not suit his liberal ideas and his principles. Therefore he asked the Assembly, in 1876, to relieve him of the powers which he possessed under that system, and proposed the constitutional law which was to be decreed. But the Assembly did not think opportune to alter the authority of which the Chief of the Republic was invested, and ratified and extended his powers for four years more.

At the second instance of General Barrios, the Assembly which met in 1879 established the fundamental Charter, by which was regulated the election of the President of the Republic, for the first period of six years, with the proviso that the citizen who should be elected should assume his duties on the 15th of March 1880.

General Barrios was elected unanimously; he, at first, refused his acceptance with insistence; but, at last, he yielded to the supplications of the people and of the Assembly, and was compelled to accept. Subsequently, in December 1882, he offered again his resignation to the Assembly, which refused it; and therefore he had to continue to exercise the office of Constitutional President during the whole term, which will expire on the 15th of March 1886.

If, from the official acts of the public man, we turn our attention upon his private actions, we will see that even the injustice of political passions could not find anything to reprehend. Sober and simple in his habits; kind, constant and generous towards his friends; careful and considerate with his family, and extremely particular in regard to the education of his sons, without preference; working with more diligence than any one;

liberal with all who claimed his assistance, General Barrios deserves the respect and esteem of the society which he has adorned by his superior qualities.

We will end this work with the remark that we pass over many circumstances and episodes, which we would not omit, but for the purpose we had to present within short limits, the most salient traits of the character of General Barrios, and only those which may show at one glance the tremendous work of transformation performed in Guatemala, by the intelligence, the courage and the perseverance of the extraordinary man who was sent by Providence to accomplish the redemption of our country.

History will point to the person of General J. Rufino Barrios, as the principal political figure of Central America, since her independence, and Guatemala will feel honored for having been his birth-place.

It may be that we will find persons to disagree with us on that point; but we feel that our opinion will prevail as long as it cannot be shown that another citizen has accomplished in Central America in favor of order, freedom and progress, as much as General Barrios, during his administration of the Government of Guatemala.

The men who look to the future of the country; those who desire the reconstruction of the REPUBLIC OF CENTRAL AMERICA, turn their eyes towards the strong arm of the Guatemalan champion, as the one destined to crown that great work; and all look to General Barrios, in the hope that, by his prestige and his talents, that grand enterprise will soon become a reality, and that his name will thus acquire a new lustre, and be surrounded by a greater and more enviable glory.

*Guatemala, January 1885.*

*F. L.*









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